

What is claimed is:

1. A self-service terminal comprising:
a fascia including means defining a document slot; and
a document processing module including (i) means defining a document transport path, (ii) a document transport mechanism for transporting a document along the document transport path, (iii) an endorser including a printhead disposed along the document transport path and for printing an endorsement onto a document, and (iv) means for preventing a document from being jammed into the printhead as the document is being transported along the document transport path in the vicinity of the endorser.
2. A terminal according to claim 1, wherein the means for preventing a document from being jammed into the printhead comprises a door covering an opening and slidable between an open position in which the printhead is able to move through the opening to print an endorsement onto a document and a closed position in which the door prevents the document from being jammed into the printhead as the document is being transported along the document transport path in the vicinity of the printhead.
3. A terminal according to claim 2, wherein the door includes a major surface and a plurality of finger-like projections disposed on the major surface and for engaging a document as the document moves into position along the document transport path for the printhead to print an endorsement onto the document.
4. A terminal according to claim 3, wherein the document processing module includes a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) reader disposed along the document transport path and for reading a MICR codeline of a document which is transported along the document transport path.

5. An automated teller machine (ATM) comprising:
 - an ATM fascia including (i) means defining a currency dispensing slot through which currency can be dispensed to an ATM customer, and (ii) means defining a cheque entrance slot;
 - a currency dispenser for dispensing currency via the currency dispensing slot to an ATM customer; and
 - a cheque processing module including (i) means defining a cheque transport path, (ii) an endorser including a printhead disposed along the cheque transport path and for printing an endorsement onto a cheque, (iii) a cheque transport mechanism for transporting a cheque along the cheque transport path from the cheque entrance slot to a cheque endorsing zone in the vicinity of the endorser, and (iv) means for preventing a cheque from being jammed in the printhead when the cheque moves into the cheque endorsing zone.
6. An ATM according to claim 5, wherein the means for preventing a cheque from being jammed in the printhead comprises a door covering an opening and slidable between an open position in which the printhead is able to move through the opening to print an endorsement onto a cheque and a closed position in which the door prevents the cheque from being jammed into the printhead as the cheque is being transported along the cheque transport path into the cheque endorsing zone.
7. An ATM according to claim 6, wherein the door includes a major surface and a plurality of finger-like projections disposed on the major surface and for engaging a cheque as the cheque moves into cheque endorsing zone along the cheque transport path for the printhead to print an endorsement onto the cheque.
8. An ATM according to claim 7, wherein the cheque processing module includes a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) reader disposed along the cheque transport path and for reading a MICR codeline of a cheque which is transported along the cheque transport path.

9. An apparatus for use in a self-service terminal having a document transport path, the apparatus comprising:

an endorser disposed along the document transport path and including a printhead for printing an endorsement onto a document along the document transport path;

means defining an opening through which the printhead can move to print an endorsement onto a document along the document transport path; and

a door covering the opening and slidable between an open position in which the printhead is able to move through the opening to print an endorsement onto a cheque and a closed position in which the door prevents the cheque from being jammed into the printhead when the cheque is transported along the cheque transport path.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the door includes a major surface and a plurality of finger-like projections disposed on the major surface and for engaging a cheque when the cheque moves into a position along the cheque transport path for the printhead to print an endorsement onto the cheque.

11. A method of processing a financial instrument at a self-service terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

transporting the financial instrument to an endorsing zone of the self-service terminal; and

engaging the financial instrument when the financial instrument moves into the endorsing zone to prevent the financial instrument from jamming into parts of an endorser disposed in the endorsing zone of the self-service terminal.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the financial instrument comprises a cheque.